

returned home. Still fixed upon his purpose, we find him (March 16th, 1797) again starting for Stantonville, as this settlement was then called. At this time he came with a horse, by the way of Esopus and Cohecton. During this summer his brother Samuel was with him. He built a log-house, and made improvements on his farm. He was also, during the season, interested in the construction of a new road from this village to Minisink. It is the present turnpike road connecting this place with Bethany, and proceeding from thence to its intersection with the Milford and Owego turnpike. He selected the route, and assisted in cutting out the trees, more or less, with his own ax.

In the December following he went to Williams-town, and returned with his wife, whom he had married in January preceding. They came, bringing all their goods and furniture in the same sleigh in which they rode. They arrived at the log-house, and entered it on the 11th day of February, 1798. Here he resided until he removed to the county seat. He had two sons born in this house—William and Ephraim. The latter died at the age of twenty-four.

In 1801 Mr. Torrey surveyed and set the stakes for the public square and Court-house, in the present village of Bethany. It had been selected as the place where the County-seat should be located. But at that time not a foot of land had been cleared, nor a tree cut within two miles of it. He immediately commenced building a dwelling-house. "The old

family mansion was the first house erected; and while building this house, he travelled daily from Mount Pleasant and back, twelve miles, through a wilderness, to carry his workmen their provisions. The first court held there was organized in the old homestead. The upper rooms were unfinished, and chairs were set on a joiner's bench for the judges, while the jury occupied seats below. Then, and for years afterwards, Mr. Torrey was personally acquainted with every family in the county, and was well informed of all their circumstances. The purchases of real estate by new settlers were, to a very large extent, made through his agency. In the year 1818, the church at Bethany was organized, and then Mr. Torrey made a profession of religion, and was soon after elected a ruling Elder. At the time of his death, he was the oldest-ordained Elder in any Church in the northern part of this State."*

He entered heartily into all the efforts made to plant the institutions of the Gospel in this new county. He was a liberal supporter of the Gospel in the church of which he was a member. Though a change of the County-seat led to the removal of his residence to Honesdale, three miles distant, he never removed his church relation. He still contributed as before to the church which he had aided in its infancy, and which now had been weakened by removals. In his will, he made provision for a like sum to be paid annually from his estate, during a term of years, for the

* Funeral Discourse of Jason Torrey, by Henry A. Bowland, D. D.
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